

Remarks:

Claims 1-8 and 32-41 are pending in the application. In the Office Action dated January 30, 2007, claims 1-4, 6, 38 and 39 were considered anticipated by USPN 5,964,760 ("Richelsoph") under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claims 5, 7 and 8 were deemed to be obvious over Richelsoph in view of USPN 5,520,689 ("Schlapfer et al.").

Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 32-37, 40 and 41. To expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended the claims to place the application in condition for immediate allowance, as set forth below.

Allowed Claims

Defendant claim 40 was allowed, while its base claim was not. Therefore, claim 40 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the elements of its base claim. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 32-37, 40 and 41 are in condition for allowance at this time.

Rejected Claims

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-8, 38 and 39 without prejudice in order to expedite allowance of the application. Applicant's cancellation of claims 1-8, 38 and 39 is in no way intended to represent Applicant's concession to the prior art rejections, and does not constitute an admission that the claims are unpatentable based on the prior art of record. Applicant reserves the right to resume prosecution of pending claims 1-8, 38 and 39 in a continuation application, and to address the art-based rejections set forth in the Office Action once the continuation application is filed.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in form for immediate allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested at this time.

Respectfully submitted,



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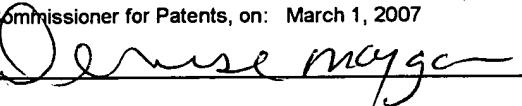
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Response to Office Action Dated January 30, 2007

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit
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Denise Morgan